

WALTER C. METZ AND "PREHISTORIC REMAINS IN LICKING COUNTY, OHIO"

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INTRODUCTION

The chief contribution of Walter C. Metz (1879-1936) to Ohio archaeology is the writing and publishing of a 16 page pamphlet entitled "Prehistoric Remains in Licking County, Ohio." This pamphlet is exceedingly rare, only two library copies being reported, although there undoubtedly are other copies existing in the Newark area. No date appears on the publication, so that there is some question as to when it was actually published.

Arkansas State University at Jonesboro, the institution that cataloged this pamphlet in the OCLC system (WorldCat) erroneously dated its publication to the 1920s. An internal reference to the 1903 Ohio National Guard Encampment during "the past summer," however, makes it clear that Metz must have published his work in 1903 or 1904. Murphy (1997) has detailed the National Guard's activities at the Newark Earthworks. Curiously, neither the Ohio Historical Society nor the Newark Public Library seems to have a copy of Metz's pamphlet, although the Newark Library once did (John Winsch, pers. comm.) and the Ohio Archaeological Inventory form (33-Li-3) refers to it. The only known copies currently available are in the Arkansas State University Library and the library of the Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center in Fremont, Ohio.

BIOGRAPHY

Metz was born in Newark, Ohio, February 1st, 1879, and received his early education there. In 1897 he went to Boise, Idaho, joining a government surveying team. The next two years were spent at the University of New Hampshire, after which he attended Ohio State University, graduating in 1905 with a B.A. degree. While at Ohio State he was made a life member of the Archaeological and Historical Society of Ohio. After college, Metz entered the employ of the Newark Trust Co., of which his father was a director. Walter became president of the bank in 1907 and the following year married Helen M. Weiant of Newark. He was president of the bank for 22 years. Leisure interests included saddle horses, hunting, amateur photography, and local archaeology. Plagued by ill health for several years, Metz retired in 1935 and on June 19th of that year drove northeast of town to Wilkins

Corners, where he walked into a nearby woods and shot himself (Newark Advocate, June 19, 1935). Figure 1 is a portrait of Metz from the Newark Advocate. The only other known photograph of him accompanies the 1909 biographical sketch quoted below. According to this sketch (Randall 1909),

"It was when but yet a youngster, that the peculiar shaped mounds and odd flint pieces appealed to him as being very curious. Curiosity, turned loose in Licking County, the unrivaled field of prehistoric mounds and stone pieces, developed into scientific research. At the early age of ten years, Mr. Metz started a collection of stone implements, but soon this did not satisfy him and much of his time was spent in opening burial mounds, that he might learn more of the habits of this pre-historic race. As a result of his untiring energy, over thirty-five hundred relics of the Mound Builders' Age have been brought together..."

Mention is also made of "the small booklet, which he wrote and published," proving that it was published prior to 1909. In prose typical of the day, the pamphlet is further described: "The book is worthy of much consideration and evidences the interest of the author in his subject and the extensive knowledge he has acquired concerning the Mound Builders and their works in that section of the State." It is not known what became of Metz's artifact collection but several of the glass plate negatives described below illustrate artifacts that probably belong to it.

"PREHISTORIC REMAINS IN LICKING COUNTY, OHIO"

In 1994 a collection of glass plate photographic negatives was purchased at Applefree Auctions in Newark, Ohio. Several of these proved to be identical to photographs in Metz's pamphlet, and other evidence indicates that these are examples of the enthusiasm for amateur photography mentioned in his death notice. For example, there is a view of Thompson Hall at the University of New Hampshire, built in 1893 and recently restored; Metz doubtless photographed the building while he was attending the school around 1898. Another

negative is labeled "After the Race at Boise, Idaho," probably dates to 1897. Several (Fig. 2-3) illustrate cowboys, Indians, and an "Indian Village" associated with Buffalo Bill's [Wild West Show] and are included here, as they very likely represent the May 25, 1901, visit of the traveling show to Newark. An advertisement from the May 18th 1901, Newark Advocate indicates that Annie Oakley was featured, although more attention was given to Rough Rider veterans of the Spanish American War, Coast Guard Life Savers, veterans of the Boer War, Canadian Mounted Police, and a simulation of the Capture of Peking (Fig. 4).

Two negatives are labeled "Flint Pieces, Licking Co." but are of the same artifacts in different arrangements. These are part of an incomplete series of photographs that are separately numbered in pencil from 5 through 10 and are numbers 5 and 9 (Numbers 1-4 are missing.) Conspicuous (Fig. 5) in the bottom row are several dovetails, a stemmed point, flake knives and a Hopewellian flint core. Collection numbers can be discerned on the core (75), one of the flake knives (16 or 91), and several of the drills (59, 71, and 20). The top row includes a Big Sandy point, several bifurcate base points, triangular points, and a number of drills. Another negative (Fig. 6) is simply labeled "Spear Heads," but these are also probably from Licking Co. On enlargement, the photography is good enough to permit identification of a fossil fusulinid in the triangular blade, making it likely that it is of Flint Ridge Vanport flint. Most of the notched points exhibit collection numbers in black ink: the numbers 412, 148, 46, 261, and 462 can be discerned with a hand lens and might aid identification of the specimens if they are still extant.

Metz negatives 6 and 10 are duplicates labeled "Bone Pieces Ross Co." (Fig. 7) and probably represent artifacts from the Baum Site, excavated by William C. Mills in 1899, 1902, and 1903 (Mills 1900, 1904, 1906). Negative 8 ("Scraper and Scraper Bone") and an unnumbered negative are close-up views of two bone beamers, probably from the Baum Site. Negative No. 7 is simply labeled "Pipes & Slate Pieces Hematites" and provenience of the pieces is uncertain, although they may have been collected locally by Metz in Licking Co. (Fig. 8).

Several negatives illustrate artifact material from the Marlowe Mound and one of



Figure 1 (Murphy) Walter C. Metz (1879-1934). From Newark Advocate, June 19, 1934.

these photographs (Fig. 9) was included in Metz's pamphlet. According to Metz (1903: 5-7), the Marlowe Mound stood near Raccoon Creek, a half mile east of Granville "near the center of a well cultivated field." It was 62 by 50 feet in diameter and five feet high. The OAI form (courtesy of Brent Eberhardt, Ohio Historic Preservation Office) cites Metz, saying the mound was a half mile east of Granville but adding that it was two-fifths of a mile east of Parmassus [sic] Hill, with no source given for the latter information. Neither location precisely matches the UTM coordinates given for the site, and the precise location remains uncertain. A quantity of red ochre was found, apparently in the mound fill. According to Metz's account, a portion of a human skull was found 1½ ft. below the surface, just west of the center of the mound, in a layer of clay. A flint flake of light-colored flint, a small granite hammerstone, a sandstone cone, a small granite celt, and a crinoid stem bead 1½ inches long were found with the skull. All other materials, including several Adena stemmed points, a keyhole pendant, and a trophy axe 5¼ inches long, were in the mound fill. The ceremonial grooved axe (Fig. 10) was made of quartzite and subsequently was in the Frank Sharp Collection (Anonymous 1954). While some of these artifacts are clearly Early Woodland, there is insufficient context to date the actual construction of the mound or to demonstrate conclusively Adena provenience of the trophy axe, although the repeated discovery of this artifact in Adena mounds makes such a conclusion more likely (Winsch 2008).

It is possible that the Marlowe Mound was partially excavated as early as 1836

by members of the Calliopean Society of what later became Denison University. The manuscript journal of the Society is preserved in the Denison University Archives, and secretary Allen M. Faxon recorded that on July 4, 1836, after excavating the Observatory Mound at Newark, the members also partially excavated the eastern half of a large mound on the road between Granville and Newark. In addition to five or six human skeletons discovered "in distinct layers of earth, some in yellow clay, others in the black alluvion of the water course," the excavators found "a stone resembling the frustrum of a cone, four inches in circumference at the base, used perhaps for pulverizing colours; a stone axe; arrow heads; and large pieces of coal of black oak; a hollow tube of baked clay and sand about five inches in length, one end terminating in an oblong square base, resembling the bottom of a smith's anvil, the hollow contracting and pressing out at one of the ends - used probably for a smoking pipe." The unusual occurrence of a "stone axe" in a mound also yielding what clearly was an Adena tubular pipe, coupled with the little that is known regarding the location of the Marlowe Mound, strongly suggests that this is the burial mound excavated in 1836, even though in 1836 it is described as 15 feet high.

Metz illustrated additional Adena material from the Warner Mound, a nine-foot high burial mound standing on the east side of Buena Vista Street in eastern Newark. Metz illustrates the mound both before and after a twelve foot wide alley was excavated from east to west through the mound. According to his brief account, fragments of pottery were numerous, split animal bone fragments were found scattered near the bottom, a human jaw was found three feet below the surface, and most of the artifacts were placed near the north side of the cut. The artifacts (Fig. 11), photographed in July 1901, include an Adena quadricone gorget, a keyhole pendant and a formal (oval) grooved tablet.

Perhaps the most interesting archaeological photograph in the collection is that showing a previously unreported copper earspool and large copper plaque, labeled "Cu pieces found in mound in West End, taken Dec 26, 1901." Metz's pamphlet unfortunately provides no additional information: "...on removing a small mound in the western portion of the city, two copper pieces were found near a human skeleton, one a Spool shaped ornament, the other a piece of sheet copper with single perforation near one corner." Although difficult to ascertain from a photograph (Fig. 12), the presence of a central hole and rather deep "umbilicus" with rounded rim profile indicates a form comparable to Ruhl's (1992) type 2, 4, or 5. Ruhl's seriation of Hopewellian copper earspools indicates that these types are earlier rather than later, and Ruhl (pers.

comm., August 11, 2008) agrees that the photograph suggests that the Newark earspool is "early-middle" and definitely not "late." It is noteworthy that this appears to be the first copper earspool illustrated from the Newark area, two stylistically early but somewhat anomalous examples from the Hazlett Mound being the nearest previously known (Ruhl 1992: 55; Mills 1921: 156).

Several other negatives are too poorly preserved for prints to be reproduced here. One is of the large stone mound north of Linnville, now difficult to photograph because of heavy tree cover, another is of part of the stone wall at Glenford Fort, Perry Co. Still others are of little or no historic or archaeological interest, such as a view of a night-blooming *Cereus*. The negative collection is chiefly of value in offering better illustrations than those provided in Metz's pamphlet, in providing catalog numbers for some artifacts that might thereby be identified in existing collections.

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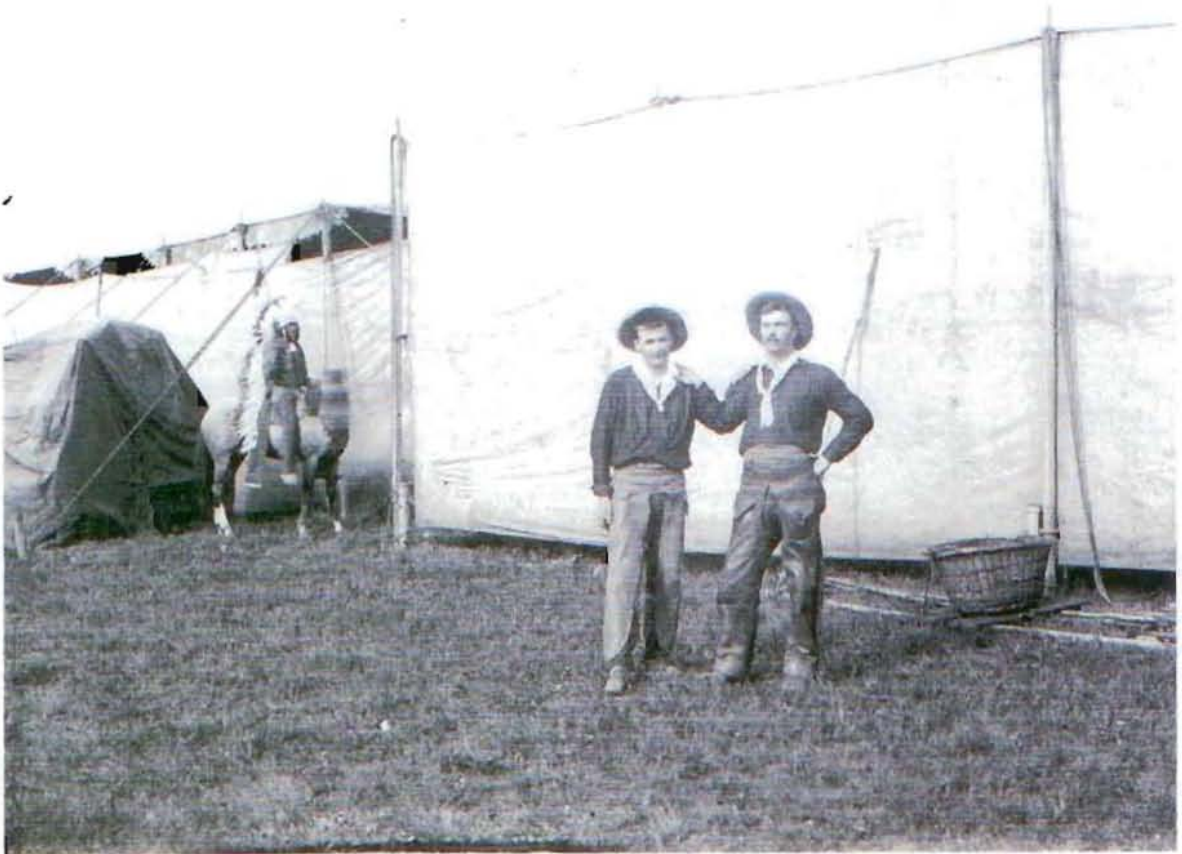


Figure 2 (Murphy) "2 Cowboys Buffalo Bills"



Figure 3 (Murphy) "Indians Horseback Buffalo Bills"

Newark Usual Show One Day Only May 25
Lot Saturday

BUFFALO

THE WORLD'S

THIS YEAR
THE
ORIENT
AND
OCCIDENT

RIDE
Shoulder to
Shoulder
IN THE

**GREAT
ARENA**

Novelty piled
on Novelty and

**MORE
to
COME.**

BILL'S ROUGH RIDERS

GREATEST EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITION

EMBRACING, AS IT DOES, THE

HERO HORSEMEN OF ALL NATIONS

As well as the strong, sturdy,

**Coast Guard
Life Savers**

Thus exemplifying all that there is in bold,
dashing,

HEROIC MANHOOD

In the saddle and on the seashore.

The great

WILD WEST

..AND..

WILD EAST

Now United Hand-in-Hand.

Step by step the pathfinder has
encircled the globe.

Note the endless array of stir-
ling att. actions.

SQUADRONS OF BRITISH

A BAND OF BOERS

CANADIAN MOUNTED RIFLES

NORTHWEST POLICE

STRATHCONA HORSE

RUSSIAN COSSACKS, BEDOUIN ARABS

WILD WEST COWBOYS, U.S. LIFE SAVERS

And the

World's Mounted Warriors

Presenting the greatest of all military
spectacles the

Battle of Tien-Tsin

AND

CAPTURE OF PEKIN

With all the exciting episodes incident
the rescue of the imprisoned Legation
including the

SCALING OF THE CHINESE WALL

And still we have the undisputed public favorites

ANNIE OAKLEY, — JOHNNY BAKER

Indians, Cowboys, Mexicans, Broncos, Stage Coach, Emigrant Train,
and all the familiar features led by the great and only

COL. W. F. CODY — "BUFFALO BILL"

Under the Effective Directorship of MR. NATH SALSBUURY.

GRAND ROUGH RIDERS REVIEW

On the morning of Exhibition, leaving the grounds at 9.30 o'clock, and traversing the principal streets

Two Exhibitions Daily, 2 and 8 P. M. Rain or Shine. Admission 50 Cents. Children Under 10 Years 25 Cents
RESERVED SEATS (including admission), \$1.00 and may be secured on the morning of the show date, at the usual place

City Drug Store, 3d and West Main Streets.

Figure 4 (Murphy) Newark Advocate advertisement, Buffalo Bill, May 18, 1901.

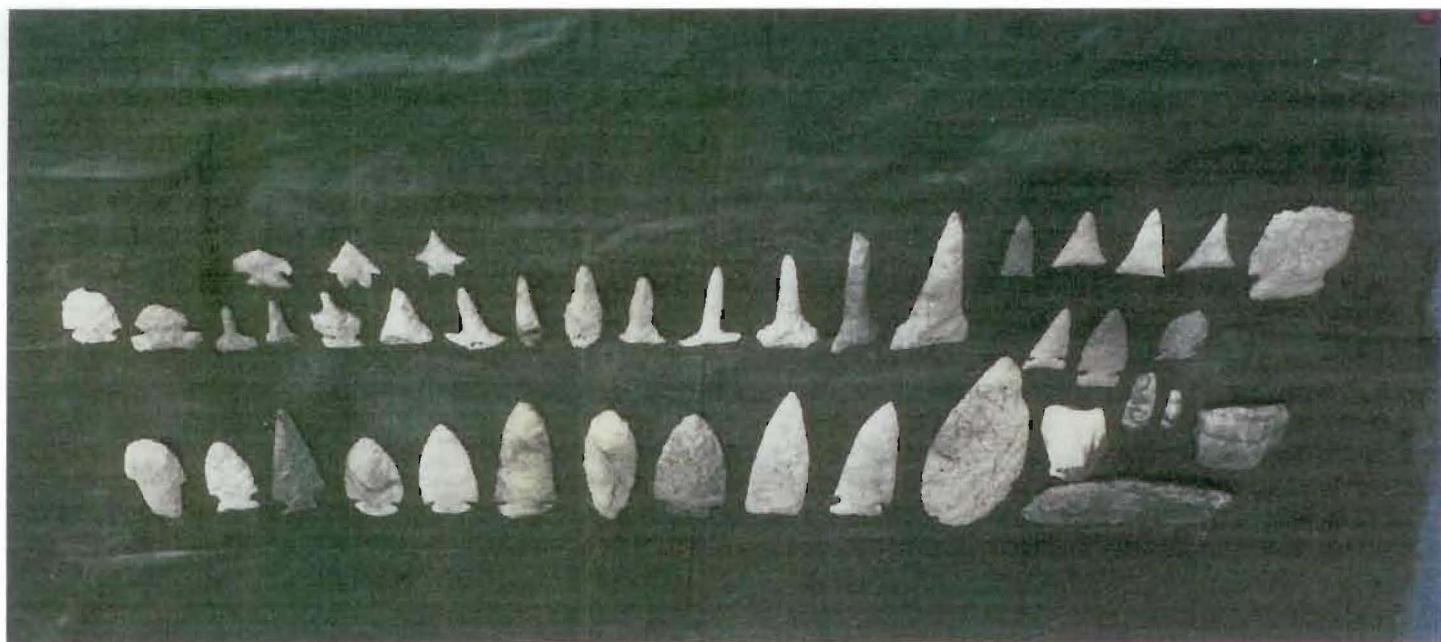


Figure 5 (Murphy) "Flint Pieces Licking Co."

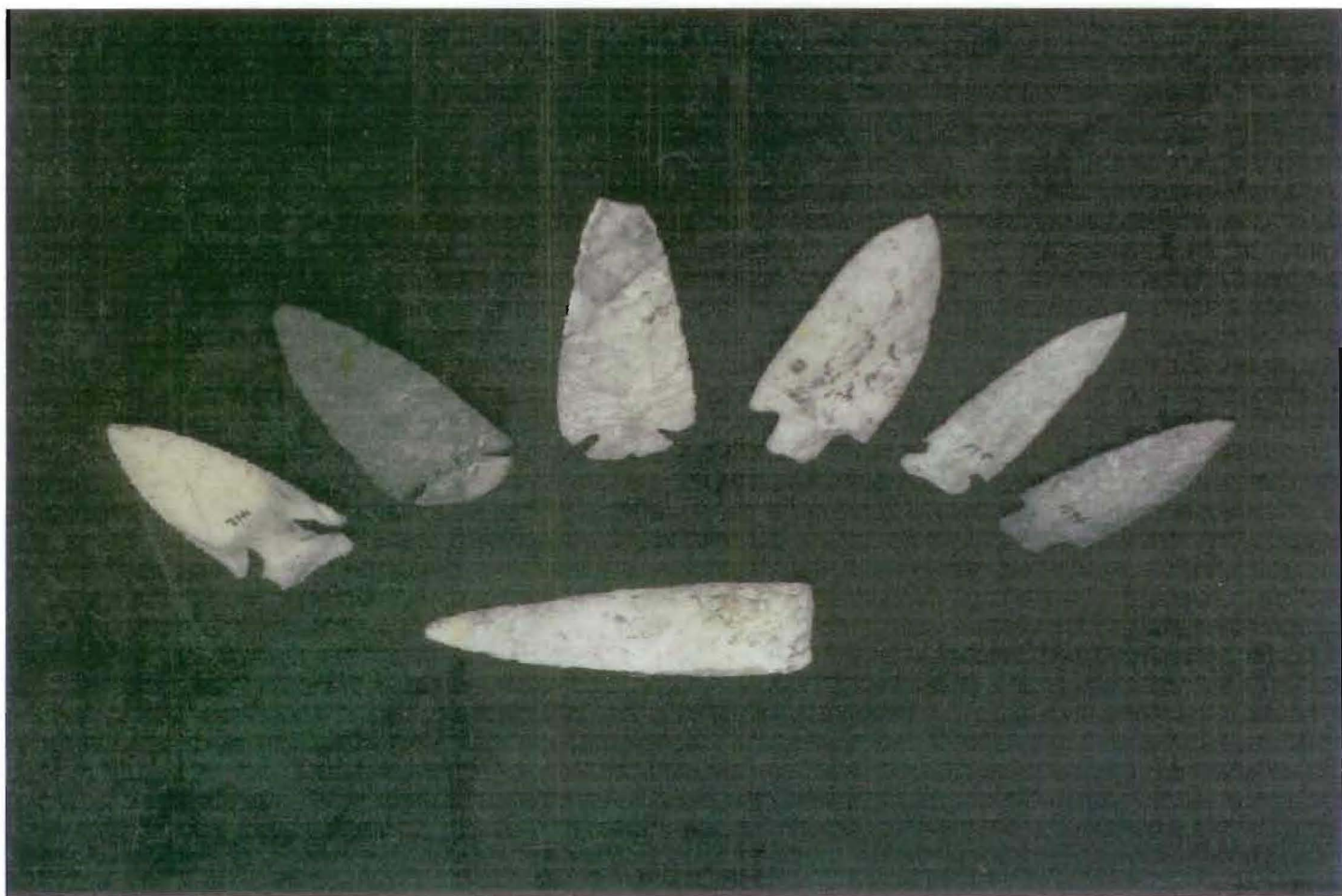


Figure 6 (Murphy) "Spear Heads."



Figure 7 (Murphy) "Bone Pieces Ross Co." presumably from the Baum Site.



Figure 8 (Murphy) "Pipes and Slate Pieces, Hematites" possibly from Licking Co.



Figure 9 (Murphy) Artifacts from Marlowe Mound, east of Granville, Ohio, August 1901

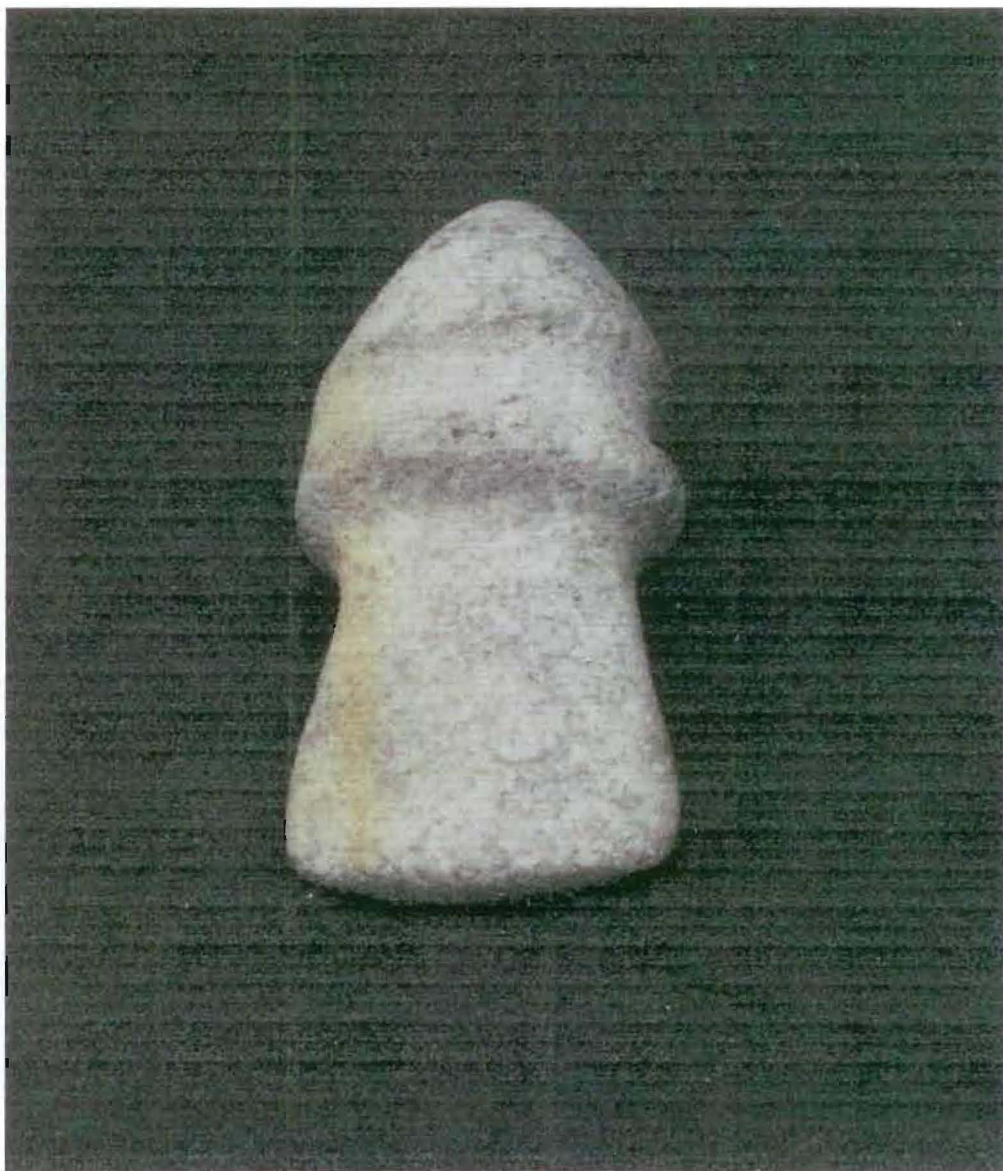


Figure 10 (Murphy) Three-quarter grooved ceremonial axe from the Marlowe Mound.



Figure 11 (Murphy) "Contents of Warner Mound, July 1901."



Figure 12 (Murphy) "Cu pieces found in mound in West End, December 26, 1901."